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The President's Daily Brief

24 January 1973

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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LATE ITEM

Haiti: As of early this morning, armed gunmen were still holding Ambassador Knox and Consul Christensen at the ambassador's residence in Port-au-Prince as hostages for the release of a number of political prisoners held by the Haitian Government. The gunmen are also demanding an "indemnity" of $500,000. President Duvalier reportedly has agreed to release some prisoners and arrangements are being made to provide an aircraft to transport the gunmen and the prisoners to Mexico City. The details are still being negotiated, however, and Deputy Undersecretary Macomber is en route to Port-au-Prince to direct the effort. The State Department has been in regular phone contact with Ambassador Knox and the gunmen since the episode began late last night.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 January 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Page 1 North Vietnam 25X1

Japan 25X1

25X1

Communist firepower in South Vietnam will increase sharply in the next few weeks as large numbers of tanks and artillery pieces arrive from the North. *(Page 2)*

Chile's Foreign Minister is due in Peking shortly, 25X1

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NORTH VIETNAM - JAPAN

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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VIETNAM

The firepower of Communist forces in South Vietnam's Military Regions 2, 3, and 4 will increase sharply in the next few weeks as large numbers of tanks and artillery pieces arrive from the North.

Some 200 tanks and armored personnel carriers, along with a similar number of artillery pieces, have been detected moving through the logistic pipeline in recent months. The artillery includes long-range field guns and light antiaircraft weapons.

Although the types of weapons en route have been in use by the Communists in the South for some time, the current shipments involve a considerably greater quantity of such weapons than had been detected in any comparable period in the past. The weapons apparently are intended, in part at least, to make up for recent heavy equipment losses and to build up stockpiles. In contrast, the infiltration of infantry into these regions of the South during this dry season has not been sufficient to make up for manpower losses.

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CHILE-CHINA

President Allende's foreign minister is due in Peking shortly for a week of talks with Chinese officials.

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Although Chinese aid to Chile is likely to remain modest, we expect Peking to be helpful. Its past performance shows that it has no intention of leaving Moscow as Chile's sole Communist benefactor.

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NOTE

Egypt: The Sadat government yesterday extended the universities' mid-year break by an additional week, until 3 February. Student demonstrations had caused the government to close the universities a week ahead of schedule, and it presumably believes that more time is needed to cool the situation. In an uncommon act of dissent, a group of intellectuals has privately petitioned President Sadat to show leniency toward students still detained. The petitioners claim that the protests stemmed from discontent at all levels of Egyptian society.

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